

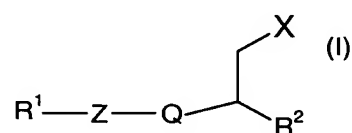
## Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

~~R<sup>1</sup> represents is~~ optionally substituted -C<sub>4-12</sub> alkyl, -C<sub>2-10</sub>alkylcycloalkyl, ~~-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkyl heterocycloalkyl~~ ~~-C<sub>2-6</sub>alkylheterocycloalkyl~~, -C<sub>2-6</sub>alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl except with the proviso that R<sup>2</sup> in not pyridinyl; Z ~~represents is~~ a bond, CH<sub>2</sub>, O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>4</sup>, OCR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>[[,]] or CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>O[[,]]<sub>i</sub> or Z, R<sup>1</sup> and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group; Q ~~represents is~~ an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X ~~represents is~~ COR<sup>3</sup>;

R<sup>2</sup> ~~represents is~~ CONH<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>7</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>7</sup> or SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, except with the proviso that R<sup>2</sup> may is not represents CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>7</sup>, when X is CONH<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>3</sup> ~~represents is~~ OR<sup>6</sup>[[,]] or NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> each independently ~~represents is~~ H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaryl;

R<sup>6</sup> ~~represents is~~ H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>7</sup> ~~represents is~~ C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; and

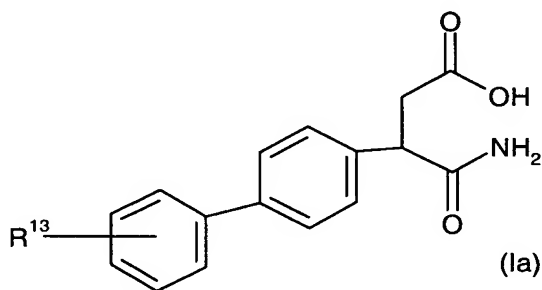
R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> each independently ~~represents is~~ H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; or R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; and or

physiologically functional derivatives thereof, with the exception of proviso that formula (I) compounds are not:

[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;  
butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or  
butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and

with the proviso that when R<sup>1</sup> ~~represents~~ is C<sub>4-12</sub>-alkyl ~~C<sub>4-12</sub>alkyl~~, Z is other than a bond, O or CH<sub>2</sub>, ~~and~~ or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

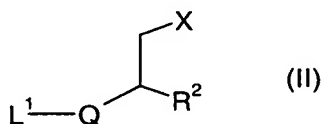
2. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X ~~represents~~ is CO<sub>2</sub>H and R<sup>2</sup> represents CONH<sub>2</sub>.
3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein Q ~~represents~~ is an unsubstituted phenyl.
4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein Z represents a bond or O.
5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ of formula (Ia):



wherein R<sup>13</sup> ~~represents~~ is H, halo, CF<sub>3</sub>, -OCF<sub>3</sub>, cyano, nitro, OR<sup>14</sup>, SR<sup>15</sup> or COR<sup>16</sup>; and  
R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup> independently ~~represents~~ are H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaryl;  
and or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

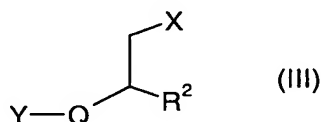
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from or susceptible to an inflammatory disease or an autoimmune disorder which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~.
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor, ~~and optionally one or more other therapeutic agents.~~
10. (Currently Amended) [[a]] A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 which process comprises:
- (A) for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein Z ~~represents~~ is a bond and R<sup>1</sup> ~~represents~~ is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, reacting a compound of formula (II):



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L<sup>1</sup> ~~represents~~ is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R<sup>1</sup>, ~~such as a compound R<sup>1</sup>B(OH)<sub>2</sub>~~;

- (B) (i) ~~preparation of compounds for preparing a compound~~ of formula (I) wherein Z ~~represents~~, is O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>4</sup>[[,]] or OCR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y ~~represents~~ is OH, SH, NHR<sup>4</sup>[[,]] or HO CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, with a compound of formula (IV):



- wherein R<sup>1</sup> is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L<sup>2</sup> represents a leaving group; and
- (ii) where Y is -SH optionally followed by oxidation to the corresponding SO or SO<sub>2</sub> as required; or

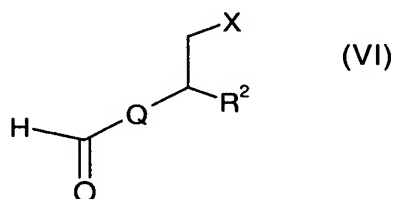
(C) ~~preparing compounds for preparing a compound~~ of formula (I) wherein Z is  $-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5\text{O}-$  by ~~reaction of~~ reacting a compound of formula (III) wherein Y is  $-\text{OH}$  with a compound of formula (V):



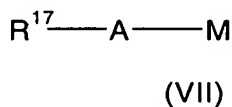
wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and  $\text{L}^3$  represents a leaving group; or

(D) ~~preparing compounds for preparing a compound~~ of formula (I) wherein Z is  $\text{CH}_2$  and  $\text{R}^1$  ~~represents~~ is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl by reacting

(i) a compound of formula ~~(VII)~~ (VI):



wherein Q, X and  $\text{R}^2$  are as defined above with an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, ~~for example, which is a~~ compound of formula (VII)[[:]]:



wherein A is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl,  $\text{R}^{17}$  is H or one or more substituents, ~~which have been described earlier in the specification,~~ and M is a metal, ~~for example, Mg, Li or MgLi;~~ and

(ii) reduction and elimination of the resultant alcohol ~~or;~~ and, if necessary,

(E) deprotection of a protected form of compounds of formula (I).